

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an essentially pure population of astrocytes which are essentially free of microglial cells, the method comprising:

a) preparing a mixture of astrocytes and microglial cells by dissociation of tissue obtained by surgical resection from a patient, and directly introducing the prepared mixture of astrocytes and microglial cells to a culture vessel,

b) incubating the prepared mixture of astrocytes and microglial cells from step a) under conditions enabling attachment of the astrocytes to the culture vessel, and

c) removing cells which have not attached to the culture vessel at a time of about 48 hours from the introduction of the prepared mixture of astrocytes and microglial cells to the culture vessel.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the astrocytes are human astrocytes.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the human astrocytes are human adult astrocytes.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein unattached cells are removed from the culture vessel by a change of culture media.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, further comprising a step d) of introducing a nucleic acid into the astrocytes.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid is introduced into the astrocytes with a viral vector.

39. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of adenovirus, Herpes virus, Adeno-Associated Virus, AAV, retrovirus and ad-vaccinia virus.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the viral vector is a replication defective adenoviral vector.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid is introduced into the astrocytes by calcium-phosphate precipitation, liposome-mediated transfection, cationic lipid transfection, or lipopolyamine-mediated transfection.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a neuroactive substance.

43. (Currently Amended) An essentially pure population of astrocytes which are essentially free of microglial cells produced from surgical resection from a patient by the method according to claim 33.